SI. No.	State	2001	2002	2003
29.	West Bengal	2324.7	2263.9	2263.9
30.	Andaman &Nicobar Island	38.1	40.0	39.6
31.	Chandigarh	91.3	90.8	90.4
32.	Dadra & Nagar Hevali	—	—	—
33.	Daman &Diu	15.0	14.5	14.5
34.	Lakshadweep			
35.	Pondicherry	25.8	25.8	51.0
	Grand Total	27789.2	27205.5	27000.3

* No Employment exchange is functioning in this State.

@ The figures for Jharkhand were included in Bihar.

New Provident Fund Norms

2549. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

* (a) whether it is a fact that Government are appointing a consulting firm to advice on Provident Fund reforms; and

(b) if so, by when the process of finalizing new Provident Fund norms would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has decided to engage a consultant namely M/s Mercer Human Resources Consulting for one time study on various aspects relating to investment management of EPFO funds.

Labour Law Reforms

2550. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that Government are bringing Labour Law Reforms by amending the Industrial Disputes Act and the Factories Act; and

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Review/updation of Labour Laws is an ongoing process. Changes in Labour Laws are effected after detailed consultations with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all Stakeholders.

A proposal to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 to provide flexibility for employment of women workers to work in the night shifts in factories is being examined. However, there is no proposal, at present, to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Survey of MNCs

2551. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Business Processes Outsourcing Centres, Call Centres, etc., are providing vast job opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey of MNCs that provide that job opportunities; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to povide training to the unemployed youth to prepare them to take up such job opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per a Study carried out by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) are providing job opportunities in the fields of Customer Care, Administrative and Financial Services, amongst others.

(c) Under the National Vocational Training System, skill training is being imparted in 98 trades, both engineering and non-engineering, through a network of 5068 Industrial Training Institutes/centres. Training in ITES/ BPO is also open to the private sector and there are over 1000 training institutions imparling such education and training. Also, the DOEACC society has launched a BPO-ITES training programme in the North-Eastern region of the country.